

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9043

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7677

E.O. 11652: GDS

EAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: FURTSEVA STATUS

REF: STATE 105053

1. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, STORY THAT MADAME FURTSEVA HAS NOT BEEN RENOMINATED TO SUPREME SOVIET IS CORRECT. STORY ORIGINATED WITH SOVIET TIP TO NEWSMAN WHO CHECKED WITH U.S. AND FRENCH EMBOFFS BEFORE FILING. NON-NOMINATION COULD SIGNAL HER FUTURE DISMISSAL, RETIREMENT, OR TRANSFER TO OTHER WORK, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE FEW OTHER FIRM SIGNS OF HER POSSIBLE DEMOTION.

2. FURTSEVA WOULD CERTAINLY RECEIVE THE TITLE OF THE MINISTER MOST RUMORED TO BE DISMISSED, BUT YE HAS MANAGED TO HANG ON FOR OVER 13 YEARS, WHILE OTHERS OUTWARDLY MORE FIRMLY IMPLANTED HAVE FALLEN FROM FAVOR. MOST RECENT STORY (BEFORE NEWS OF NON-NOMINATION) WAS THAT SHE WAS ABOUT TO RETIRE AND BE REPLACED BY YE. M. TYAZHELNIKOV, KOMSOMOL FIRST SECRETARY (SHO WAS HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY REELECTED TO HIS KOMSOMOL POST IN LATE APRIL). THS WRVS ALSO TIED IN WITH RUMOR THAT FURTSEVA'S HUSBAND, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN, WAS DUE TO REPLACE MALIK AT UNITED NATIONS AND THAT SHE
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WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM. LATTER SEEMS SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS, SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT FURTSEVA DOES NOT EVEN LIVE WITH

FIRYUBIN.

3. ALTHOUGH FURTSEVA IS 64, SHE LOOKS THE PICTURE OF HEALTH. DURING APRIL 20 LUNCHEON FOR SENATOR KENNEDY SHE SEEMED EVERY BIT THE MINISTER AND SPOLE CONFIDENTLY AND FIRMLY ABOUT U.S.-SOVIOZ RELATIONS, LEAVING NO SENSE OF INDECISION ABOUT HER OPINIONS. IN DEALINGS WITH MINISTRY OF CULTURE, EMBASSY PRESS AND CULTURAL OFFICERS HAVE HAD THE FEELING THAT FURTSEVA IS MORE IN COMMAND THAN EVER.

4. OF COURSE, IT IS LIKELY THAT FURTSEVA HAS MADE NUMBER OF ENEMIES OVER THE YEARS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN TO HER. SUCH RECENT EVENTS AS THE SOLZHENITSYN AFFAIR, THE PANOVA FLAP, ALONG WITH THE ECANCELLATION OF THE KIROV BALLET TRIP TO THE U.S. AND A POSSIBLE SIMILAR CANCELLATION OF THE BOLSHOY TRIP, PERHAPS ROSTROPOVICH'S ANTICIPATED DEPARTURE, OR EVEN GENERAL LEADERSHIP DISSATISFACTION WITH THE HANDLING OF NON-CONFORMIST CULTURAL FIGURES COULD PLAY A ROLE IN A POSSIBLE FURTSEVA FALL, BUT THEY PROBABLY COULD BE CONSIDERED AS EXCUSES FOR ACTION AGAINST HER RATHER THAN AS CAUSES OF HER DISMISSAL. AT THIS POINT THEREFORE WE CAN ONLY PUZZLE OVER THE FURTSEVA NON-NOMINATION AND SEE IF WE CAN PICK UP SOME OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THIS TIME THE RUMORS ARE TRUE.

5. IF FURTSEVA IS REMOVED FROM MINISTRY OF CULTURE, PRECEDENT EXISTS FOR TRANSFER TO AMBASSADOBSHIP ABROAD.

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